

April 28, 2010

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:

www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

2010 Annual Financial Literacy Event: Money Matters!!!

Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball, in partnership with the **Howard County Library** and **Howard Community College**, will sponsor the fourth annual financial literacy event entitled “Money Matters: A Community Fun and Activity Fair” on **Saturday, May, 1, 2010** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** located at **Howard County Library’s East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia MD 21045.**

I would like extend special thanks to several organizations that are helping to make financial education a success in Howard County. I’m pleased to work continuously with local organizations including Bridgeway Community Church, Celebration Church and St. John Baptist Church and am excited to co-sponsor this year’s event with organizations including Howard County Library, Howard Community College, makingCHANGE, and the Governor’s Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

This event is **FREE** for children, teens, adults and seniors. **FREE** H1N1 vaccinations will also be administered during this event from 10:00am – 12:00pm administered through the Howard County Health Department. For more information, please contact **Kimberly Pruim** at **(410) 313-2001** or email kprium@howardcountymd.gov.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, please visit

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, please email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

Census 2010... It's Not Too Late!!!

Although April 1 has come and gone, it's not too late for us to improve Howard County's response rate for Census 2010! I encourage you, your friends, family and neighbors to return the Census forms or to cooperate with the census takers who will soon be dispatched to County neighborhoods in early and mid-May.

For approximately six to eight weeks, census takers will visit residences where Census questionnaires were not returned. Your continued efforts will go a long way to ensure that Howard County gets its fair share of federal funding and maintains the #1 spot as the most responsive County in Maryland!

For more information, please contact Kimberly Flowers, Chair, Complete Count Committee and Deputy Director, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning at 410-313-4340 or email kflowers@howardcountymd.gov.

Participate in Attendance Area Adjustment Committee!!!

The Howard County Public School System is seeking members for a potential Attendance Area Adjustment Committee to the Superintendent. Redistricting may be under consideration for the 2011-2012 school year. Prospective plans must be reviewed by a committee comprised of 10-12 Howard County residents and may include one student.

Members are appointed by the Superintendent to advise and comment during the planning phase regarding Capital Budget and redistricting recommendations being developed by staff. Committee members are asked to volunteer their time by attending approximately 12-15 evening meetings. If redistricting is deferred, the pool of citizens who have expressed interest will be retained for the following year.

All letters of interest and resumes must be received by **Monday, May 3, 2010** at the following address: **Howard County Public School System, Office of School Planning, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.**

For more information, call **410-313-1554** or send an email to **Jennifer_bubenko@hcpss.org**.

Join us for the Imagine 2060 Public Workshop!!!

Citizens and organizations from Howard County and the Baltimore region are invited to take part in a groundbreaking series of public workshops to imagine the future of our transportation systems. You are invited to share thoughts and ideas to help make our region and communities a great place to work and play for generations to come!

The Howard County Workshop will be held **Tuesday May 4, 2010** from **7:00-9:00 pm** at **Howard Community College, Duncan Hall – Kittleman Room, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, contact **Monica Haines Benkhedda** at **comments@baltometro.org** or **410-732-0500 x1047**

Asian Festival and Health Fair!!!

The Asian Festival and Health Fair will be held **Saturday May 8, 2010** from **11am to 4pm** at **Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road, Ellicott City, MD**. This event is in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and is sponsored by Howard County General Hospital, in partnership with the Korean American Community Association.

The Fair includes free health screenings, H1N1 vaccinations and information on a variety of health topics. This event will also feature cultural performances, ethnic foods, fashion and arts and crafts. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Information Session on the Use of School Facilities for Meetings!!!

Are you a member of a community group or organization that currently uses or would like to use a school facility as a location for your event or activity? If so, an informational meeting will be held **Wednesday, May 12, 2010** at 7:30pm in the Homewood Center cafeteria located at **10914 Route 108 in Ellicott City**.

Participants will learn what facilities are available for community use, how to schedule an event, and what is expected of outside users. For additional information, contact the Howard County Public School Systems Use of School Facilities Specialist **Chuck Parvis** at **410-313-6750**.

ADA Workshop for Small Businesses!!!

Howard County's Department of Citizen Services, Disabilities Services Division, will hold a free workshop for small businesses entitled "A Disability Friendly Business IS Beneficial for Business". The workshop, which will be hosted by the Howard County Economic Development Authority's Committee for Economic and Business Diversity, will be held on **Wednesday, May 26, 2010** from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Thomas Dorsey Building, **9250 Bendix Road North, Columbia**.

ALL are welcome, but registration is required by **May 14, 2010** to **Joyce Lehrer, 410-313-6431** or jlehrer@howardcountymd.gov. Any ADA accommodations needed to attend the program should be requested at the time of registration. Seating is limited; please register early!

2010 Howard County Youth Police Academy!

A FREE one-week overnight program is now available for youth to explore career and leadership opportunities, life skills and character education. Participation requirements include: Howard County resident, Age 15 to 18, minimum 2.0 grade point average, letter of recommendation from a school faculty member, physical examination, and background check.

Registration deadline is **Friday, May 14, 2010**. For an application, contact your school resource officer or visit www.HCPD.org.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provide programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please contact **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Secondary Language Arts Advisory Committee Seeks New Members!!!

The Secondary Language Arts Advisory Committee is seeking new members. The committee consists of Secondary Language Arts teachers, administrators, students, parents, and other interested community members who meet to advise, support and advocate for the continuous improvement of educational programs in order to ensure that all Howard County students are college and career-ready.

This committee meets four times during the school year and the tentative schedule for next year's meetings is as follows: **September 30, 2010** (3:00-4:30pm), **November 18, 2010** (3:00-4:30pm), **February 24, 2011** (3:00-4:30pm) and lastly **April 28, 2011** (3:00-4:30pm). Please note these dates are subject to change.

If you are interested and would like to serve on this committee, contact **Elaine Zavaleta**, Secondary Language Arts Administrative Secretary at **410-313-6620** or Elaine_zavaleta@hcpss.org

Oakland Mills Farmers Market!

Come out and support our local businesses! The Oakland Mills Farmers Market will begin operating **May 9, 2010** located in the parking lot of the Oakland Mills Village Center located on Robert Oliver Place and will run through **November 21, 2010**.

Columbia Home Tour!

Embark on a self guided tour of 5 distinctive homes in Columbia **Sunday, June 6, 2010** from 11am – 5pm. Stop by The Other Barn for refreshments and a display from Columbia Archives!

Tickets are on sale now and are \$20.00 per person. For ticket info, contact **410-730-8113**. For details on this event, contact **Carol Hoblemann** at **410-730-3987**.

Mission Road Water Main Extension to Begin!

A Howard County construction project to extend public water along Mission Road in Jessup began on or about **Monday, March 15, 2010**. The majority of the work will take place along the west-bound lane of Mission Road in the vicinity of Concord Drive. Weather permitting, the project should be completed by mid-June.

For questions or concerns about Capital Project S6272, contact **Lisa Brightwell**, Public Works Customer Service at **410-313-3440** or by email to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents age 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of **Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.**

We Want To Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting. http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

How Can You Participate in Howard County Government?

This is your chance to stay informed and involved! Your comments are welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax. All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.** Click the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative process generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission position are invited to view the following link
http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

For additional news and events, please visit the Howard County Calendar of Events at http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_POrtal_CalendarofEvents.htm.

Dr. Calvin Ball

Council Member, District 2

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2_Bio.htm

410-313-2001

"I am firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts." -

Abraham Lincoln